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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 30 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter dated 16 April 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to you (A/54/81), which concerns the murder of Major-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Iranian Armed Forces. By means of this and other letters Iran is trying to stack the deck in order to cover up the true facts with regard to what is happening on the ground and for the purpose of defaming Iraq's good name and undermining any effort to restore normal relations between the two countries. It does this on the false assumption that raising a propagandistic outcry will conceal the fact that it continues to provide all kinds of support and backing to the terrorist organizations that have made Iranian territory a base from which to infiltrate into Iraq's territory to carry out assassinations and engage in sabotage operations. Some of the latter were mentioned in the letters from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq circulated as annexes to documents S/1996/1070 and S/1997/3 as well as in the letter dated 20 April 1999 from the Minister addressed to you (S/1999/455, annex).

One of the basic principles on which Iraq's foreign policy is based is that of respect for other States and non-interference in their internal affairs. This is a policy that Iraq has been committed to pursuing in its belief in the principles and norms of international law, beginning with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of good-neighbourliness. On the other side, however, Iranian actions and policies have endeavoured to mar the conduct of relations of good-neighbourliness. This has been exemplified in actions involving infiltration and sabotage, in the instigation of disturbances, dissention, robbery and looting in Iraqi border towns and in acts of sabotage inside Iraq. Such actions are carried out by terrorist bands that are Iran's

* A/54/50.

clients and that are given shelter and all manner of support inside Iran by the Iranian authorities. They are exemplified by the group led by the turncoat Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim and called "the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq" and by the Da'wah Party. These actions are without the slightest doubt in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly resolutions on the elimination of terrorism and the Definition of Aggression annexed to General Assembly resolution 2319 [i.e. 3314 (XXIX)] of [14] December 1974, in which "The sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries, which carry out acts of armed force against another State ..." is regarded as an act that qualifies as an act of aggression. Iran, by its actions and its conduct, is also in violation of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, annexed to General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and, in particular, of the commitment "to refrain from organizing or encouraging the organization of irregular forces or armed bands, including mercenaries, for incursion into the territory of another State" and from "organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in acts of civil strife or terrorist acts in another State or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts". It is also in violation of the principle of non-interference in the internal or external affairs of other States.

The aforesaid letter of 16 April 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations concerning the murder of Major-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi contains false and groundless allegations. Iraq is not responsible for the actions of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, which maintains a presence in other countries adjacent to Iran and also maintains offices and representatives in no small number of other countries of the world, as is confirmed by the letter of the Chargé d'affaires itself. These charges can therefore only be interpreted as representing a policy of provocation by means of which the Iranian authorities are endeavouring to create a pretext and a cover for any acts of aggression that they might possibly contrive against Iraq. They are, at the same time, a flimsy excuse for Iran's continuing interference in Iraq's internal affairs in violation of the norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of good-neighbourliness. It is to be noted that they coincide with the acts of aggression being unlawfully committed against Iraq and its people on a daily basis by the United States of America and its British ally as they maintain the two no-flight zones imposed in Iraq's national airspace and as they make their frenetic attempts to interfere in the country's internal affairs and persist in maintaining the unjust embargo against it. The attempts of the Iranian Government to raise such an outcry against Iraq can therefore only be interpreted as being in the service of the designs of the United States and the United Kingdom against our country.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 161 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative